



STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR
GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS
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INFORMATION ON LICENSURE AS A REGISTERED GEOPHYSICIST

Geophysics refers to that science that involves the study of the physical earth by means of measuring its natural and induced fields of force, including, but not limited to, electric, gravity, and magnetic, and its responses to natural and induced energy and the interpreting of these measurements and the relating of them to the physics of the earth. (§7802.1, B&P Code*)

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (§7841.1(b), B&P Code)

An applicant for licensure as a Registered Geophysicist must meet **one** of the following educational requirements:

- graduation with a major in a geophysical science or any other discipline that in the opinion of the board is relevant to geophysics
- or**
- completion of a combination of at least 30 semester hours in courses that in the opinion of the Board are relevant to geophysics. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, must be upper division or graduate courses.

Transcripts. The Board requires a transcript(s) of the applicant's college or university record(s). The applicant must request a certified copy of the transcript be mailed by each college or university to the Board's office. Transcript(s) submitted by the applicant are not accepted.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS (§7841.1(c), B&P Code)

An applicant for licensure as a Registered Geophysicist must have at least **seven** years of professional geophysical work that must include **either** a minimum of:

- three years of professional geophysical work under the supervision of a Registered Geophysicist. (Prior to July 1, 1973, professional geophysical work qualifies if it was under the supervision of a qualified geophysicist.)
- or**
- five years of experience in responsible charge of professional geophysical work.

Experience Credit:

- Each year of undergraduate study in the geophysical sciences counts as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years.
- Each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.
- Each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.
- Teaching upper division or graduate courses in geophysical sciences is credited year-for-year provided the total teaching experience includes six semester units per semester or the equivalent if on the quarter system.

*Business and Professions Code

The Mission of the State Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists is to Continuously Enhance the Quality, Value and Availability of Geological and Geophysical Services Offered to the People of California

Experience Credit (continued)

- Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study and teaching, individually or in any combination, cannot exceed a total of four years towards meeting the requirements of at least seven years of professional geophysical work.
- Credit will not be given for professional geophysical work performed under the supervision of a Registered Geophysicist until the applicant has completed the educational requirements.
- Credit will not be given for professional geophysical work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational experience credit is allowed. Part-time graduate study or research and part-time professional geophysical work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12 calendar month basis.
- Unlicensed practice of geophysics will not be recognized as qualifying experience.

Supervisor References. The Board requires supervisor references as part of the application. The applicant must send a Supervisor Reference Form **and** a copy of his or her completed application to each supervisory reference verifying qualifying experience. Applications will not be processed unless the references are complete.

Professional Geophysical Work is work performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles and methods of geophysical problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgement of minimal supervision.

Professional geophysical work specifically does **not** include:

- Activities wherein the analysis or interpretation of geophysical or geological information is lacking. Such work could encompass party or crew chief and would encompass lesser forms of employment in field parties, the manufacture, assembly or maintenance and repair of geophysical instruments and equipment, computer activities normally performed by a technician in acquiring and reporting on geophysical information where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are absent.
- Engineering disciplines and other physical sciences wherein geophysical or geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

Responsible charge means a position whereby a person having individual control and direction of a geophysical project exercises the individual initiative, skill and judgment in the investigation and interpretation of geophysical information, or the supervision of such projects. An individual can be considered to be in a responsible position even though not registered and working as a subordinate employee to a Registered Geophysicist or qualified geophysicist.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE COMBINED

Applicants must have the following combined academic experience and professional geophysical work:

<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
No Degree	7 Years
BS/BA	5 Years
MS/MA+	3 Years